Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, DA, UK

SUBJ: DENMARK AND THE 200 MILE FISHERIES REGIME.

1. AS DENMARK CATCHES APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL FISH PRODUCTION FROM NON-DANISH WATERS, THE POSSIBILITIES OF STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF A 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE WOULD HAVE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES ON A WELL DEVELOPED INDUSTRY WHICH CATCHES 40 PERCENT OF ALL EC FISH PRODUCTION. THEREFORE THE RECENT PROPOSAL BY THE EC TO ASSUME CONTROL OF ALL EC WATERS, EXCEPT FOR THE FIRST 12 MILES, TO ESTABLISH ANNUAL QUOTAS, AND TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS HAS GENERALLY MET WITH DENMAR'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVAL. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD ASSURE A CONTINUED ACCESS

TO THE RICH WATERS OF THE NORTH SEA WHERE DENMARK'S VESSELS HAVE FISHED FOR MANY YEARS. THE BEST FISHING BANKS IN THE NORTH SEA ARE LOCATED OFF THE COASTS OF THE U.K., PRIMARILY WITHIN THE 50-MILE LIMIT, DENMARK WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE EC'S 12-MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE PROVISION BUT IS AWARE OF THE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM THE U.K. FISHING INDUSTRY ON THIS POINT. THEREFORE DENMARK IS CITING THE PROVISION OF THE TREATY OF ROME WHICH STIPULATES THAT A 6-MILE EXLUSIVE ZONE BE IN EFFECT UNTIL 1982. WITH THIS ARGUMENT THE DANES HOPE TO COUNTER THE U.K. EXPANDED EXCLUSIVE ZNE POSITION, HOWEVER, THE DANESEXPECT THE UK TO FORTIFY THEIR ARGUMENT FOR MORE THAN A 12-MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE BY LISTING THE LOSSES THEY WILL INCUR WHEN THEIR DISTANT-WATER FLEET IS EXCLUDED FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL GROUNDS (OFF ICELAND PRIMARILY) AND PRIVATELY ADMIT THE EC MIGHT ULTIMATELY HAVE TO ACCEPT AN EXPANDED COASTAL ZONE FOR BOTH UK AND ICELAND.

2. COMMENT: DENMARK SENT LOKKEGAARD OF THE FISHERIES MINISTRY ON A SUDDEN TRIP TO BRUSSELS LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE EC FISHERIES PROPOSAL. THIS WAS BECAUSE THE DANES FEEL THE EC PROPOSAL WAS HURRIEDLY PREPARED WITHOUT ENOUGH THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO ALL THE IMPLICATIONS. WHILE AGREEING WITH THE MAIN PROVISIONS, EXCEPT AS STATED ABOVE, THEY FEEL THAT NOT ENOUGH THOUGHT WAS GIVEN TO THE FUTURE NEGOTITIONS WITH NON-EC MEMBERS WHO ALSO HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA. THIS LATTER GROUP INCLUDES NOT ONLY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUT A LARGE CONTINGENT OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COMOUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR, THE DANES ARE CONCERNED WITH THEIR BALTIC SEA FISHERIES WHICH IS CONDUCTED PRIMARILY IN THE EASTERN BALTIC, AND THEY FEAR THAT IF THE USSR IS SHUT OFF TOO ABRUPTLY IN THE NORTH SEA. THEY WILL RETALIATE AND FORCE THE DANES OUT OF WHAT WOULD BECOME USSR WATERS. THERE IS ALSO A SIMILAR CONCERN. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT LESS, WITH NORWAY, THE DANES ARE ALSO HELPING TO REVIVE AN OLD PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE FISHERIES SECTION OF EC TO A DIRECTORATE LEVEL. THEY FEEL THE CURRENT ISSUES AND THOSE WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE CONTENDED WITH FOR MANY YEARS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH FROM A TOP LEVEL POSITION IN THE EC HIERARCHY. ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CANDIDATES BEING MENTIONED FOR THE NEW POSITION IS TIANSTRA, PRESENTLY DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES IN THE NETHERLANDS. THE DANES FEEL HE WOULD BE AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF THE POSITIONS THEY ARE ESPOUSING.

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